



## News to Know - August 2025

It's August, the Sunday of summer. For the Town, it's a time of transition as we wrap up vacations and ramp up for fall. Some key things to know for this month:

- Budget season is underway as we plan for FY2027 Town & School Budgets and a fall Town Meeting
- Veterans & senior citizens have new tax relief program options
- Claim federal clean energy credits before they go away
- Get ready to "Skip the Stuff"

Stay up to date on things going on in Wellesley by reading *The W*, encouraging others to [subscribe to this newsletter](#), and keep sending input to [our editors](#).

A reminder that [Massachusetts Tax Free weekend](#) is Saturday, August 9 and Sunday, August 10. During this two-day event, the state's 6.25% sales tax will be suspended on most items purchased for personal use. Please shop local and support our businesses!

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### Select Board Updates: 2025 Fall Town Meeting starts November 3

The Select Board will convene a [Town Meeting](#) this fall, beginning on Monday, November 3, at 7:00 p.m. in the Wellesley High School auditorium.

Residents are welcome to attend Town Meeting and speak on issues. Information about the Warrant and deadlines to submit articles for Town Meeting consideration will be posted on the Town website later this month.



The process for setting the FY2027 Town and School budgets starts this month. Stay informed on the budget process by attending Select Board and Advisory Committee meetings. The Select Board meets on Tuesday nights, and the Advisory Committee meets on Wednesday nights. Agendas and materials are posted on the [Meeting Calendar](#). Meetings are also recorded for livestream or on demand viewing online via [Wellesley Media](#).

### August Office Hours

Select Board member Kenny Largess will hold in-person office hours at Town Hall on Wednesday, August 6 from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Upper Conference Room (3rd floor). Please [email Kenny directly for an appointment](#).

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## Good News! Tax Relief Program Improvements

Veterans and senior citizens can now benefit from improvements to Wellesley tax relief programs. 2025 Annual Town Meeting accepted the provisions of the [HERO Act](#), increasing certain Veterans exemptions. Read [the Veterans exemptions guide](#). Veterans with 100% disability are also eligible for a motor vehicle excise tax exemption. Currently, the Senior Deferral Program is waiting final State Legislature approval which could increase the income limit on gross receipts.

Explore [tax relief program information](#) on the Assessor's Office webpages to determine if you're eligible. *If you already receive real estate tax exemption benefits, FY26 applications will be mailed to you in August.* Tax relief applications are due annually by April 1.

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## Weston Road Construction Update

Work on the [Weston Road Reconstruction Project](#) this month is focused on stormwater as crews install new catch basins from Beechwood Road to Pine Plain Road. Granite curbing will be installed in early September. The street remains closed on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. to all traffic except for those who live along Weston Road and dead-end side streets.

**Please support Weston Road businesses!** Fells Market, Andrew's Pharmacy, Weston Road Cafe, and other retailers are open and accessible even though the road is closed. Detail officers are directing traffic so shoppers can get to these businesses.

**Stay Informed.** Remember, regular project updates and traffic alerts are posted on the [Town website](#) and [Wellesley Police Department Facebook page](#) and [X account](#). Contact [WPD with concerns or questions](#).

### Street Smarts! Understanding Capeseal

Summer is prime street resurfacing time. Lately, DPW has received questions about Capeseal so here's the scoop (hint: it has nothing to do with Cape Cod). Capeseal is a proven road resurfacing treatment that's a durable, cost effective alternative to hot-mix asphalt paving. It's done in two parts: in the first phase, a chip seal layer is applied, which consists of liquid asphalt followed by aggregate (stone chips). This may appear rough & gravelly, which is normal. In the second phase, a smooth, finish coat is applied over the chip seal to create a road surface that provides excellent traction and durability. This second surface needs 2-3 weeks to properly cure; during this time the roadway may be swept 1-2 times to remove loose aggregate.

[Read more about Wellesley paving techniques.](#)

## Act Now to Claim Federal Clean Energy Credits

Thinking about a new, used, or leased electric vehicle, solar panels, a hot water heater, or heat pump? Federal tax credits for these and other clean energy projects will expire soon, following

passage of the “One Big Beautiful Bill.” Combine federal tax credits with big local incentives while the federal credits last. [Read more about changes to federal energy incentives](#). And [explore additional energy incentives on the Wellesley Climate Action webpages](#).



## Take the Roadway Safety Survey 2.0

The Boston Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) continues work on its [Vision Zero Plan](#) to make streets safer. Our community made recommendations about safety issues. Now, share your opinions on these recommendations by completing a 5-8 minute survey. Your feedback will help develop future policies. [Take the Vision Zero Public Review Survey](#).

## From Other Departments



### Health Department - "Skip the Stuff" and Reduce Waste

The next time you order take out or food delivery, plan to "skip the stuff." This new Board of Health bylaw, approved at 2025 Annual Town Meeting, goes into effect in January 2026 and requires all food service establishments to provide single-use articles such as plastic utensils and single-serving condiment packages **ONLY upon customer request or at a self-service counter**. You'll be hearing more about this in the months to come, but start developing good habits now.

Single-use foodware in landfills and incinerators is a growing problem that results in 4.9 million tons of waste every year. This bylaw aims to: 1) reduce the amount of waste generated by single-use articles, 2) change customer habits, and 3) help reduce unnecessary costs to food service establishments. Beginning in January, customers will need to ask for single-use items (forks, spoons, napkins, etc.) in all food establishments and will need to check a box to request them when ordering online. [Read about the "Skip the Stuff" bylaw](#).

**Stay Connected & Healthy.** Sign up for the monthly [Wellesley Health Department Newsletter](#).

### Planning Department - RIO Task Force Update

The recently created Residential Incentive Overlay (RIO) Task Force has met three times since its inception this spring. The Task Force is made up of 16 community volunteers who are reviewing the [Wellesley RIO Bylaw](#) to identify areas for improvement and clarification and consider solutions to address those areas. Ultimately the Task Force will make recommendations to the Planning Board. Member information, meeting dates, and materials are available on the [RIO Task Force webpage](#).

**Looking ahead - 49 Walnut Street Project of Significant Impact (PSI).** The Planning Board will hold a public hearing on September 11 at 6:30 p.m. to review a special permit application for the construction of a new 28-unit multi-family residential building at 49 Walnut Street. [View the project materials](#) on the Planning Department

## Youth Commission - Fill a Back-to-School Backpack

Shop for and fill a backpack with back-to-school supplies and support Wellesley kids! There's still time to take part in the Wellesley Youth Commission 2025 Back-to-School Backpack drive and ensure that every Wellesley Public Schools (WPS) student has the supplies they need to start the new school year.



The rising costs of backpacks and required school supplies can place a strain on already tight household budgets. Currently, the Youth Commission has 75 requests for supply-filled backpacks, which are estimated to cost between \$75-\$150 per student.

To participate in the drive, [complete and submit the 2025 Back-to-School Backpack sponsor form](#). You'll receive an email matching you with a student and a list of supplies to purchase. Shoppers can choose to sponsor more than one student. When you're done shopping, deliver the filled backpack to the Wellesley Housing Authority (107 Barton Road) no later than Wednesday, August 13.

Questions? [Contact Youth Commission Director Maura Renzella](#).

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## We Remember: Dwin Schuler and Keith "The Captain" Marden

Wellesley is mourning the recent passing of two influential and long-time residents, Dwin Schuler (age 98) and Keith Marden (age 102). Both were exceptional members of our community! Dwin was well-known for her work with the League of Women Voters of Wellesley and the annual Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive, among many other projects. And Keith was Wellesley's oldest Veteran, former Town Assessor, and "The Captain" behind the counter and behind the beloved family business, Captain Marden's Seafoods. Our sincere condolences to their families.



## Dates to Know

### Upcoming Public Meetings

- August 1, 8:00 a.m. - Housing Development Corporation
- August 6, 13 & 20, 6:30 p.m. - Advisory Committee orientation
- August 13, 7:00 p.m. - RIO Task Force
- August 14, 4:00 p.m. - COA Board
- August 19, 6:30 p.m. - Select Board

- August 27, 6:30 p.m. - Advisory Committee

For complete details on these meetings and others, view the [Public Meeting calendar](#).

## Upcoming Community Events

- August 25, 1:00 p.m. - Author Talk, Doug Most: Launching Liberty @Center for the Heights, Needham
- August 27, Wellesley Public Schools start
- September 1, Labor Day, Town Offices CLOSED

**Be in the Know about community events in Wellesley!** Check out the complete [Community Calendar](#) on the homepage of the Town website. And submit your events using our [online event submission form](#).



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